

receiving phone would, however, recognize the message as a picture chat message based on for example a tag accompanying the message, as mentioned above. In this way, a picture chat message could consist of an entire gallery of clip-art pictures (preferably eight clip-art pictures), and up to 120 characters less one character for each clip-art picture because one character is used as a tag for each clip-art picture indicating to the user of a mobile phone not adapted to the invention where in the text the clip-art picture is intended to be displayed. (A mobile phone adapted to practice the invention would replace the tags with the corresponding clip-art pictures.)

Group drawing of a clip-art picture

In another aspect of the invention, users using different mobile phones act collectively to create a clip-art picture on one of the mobile phones. The mobiles phones can be interconnected not only by a cellular wireless communication system (such as UMTS, i.e. 3G wireless), but also by other wireless communication systems, including the well-known Bluetooth system, the General Packet Radio System (GPRS), or an Enhanced Data Rates for Global Evolution (EDGE) system. According to the invention each of the participating mobile phones can request control of the drawing interface for one task (such as inserting and sizing a circle using the circle tool), and after the task the editor application finds the next request in a queue maintained by the editor and gives control of the editor interface to the user of the mobile phone that made the request, but only for as long as is required to complete one task. Alternatively, each requestor is given control of the editor interface for a predetermined time, say for example 15 seconds. At any time during a group drawing, the user of the mobile phone on which the drawing is being created, what is here

called the host phone, can interrupt the process (and will usually then save the clip-art picture being created). The user of the host phone indicates an interruption using a soft key. The user of the host phone can also make a normal request, which is placed in the request queue just as are requests made by any other participating mobile phone users.

Scope of the Invention

It is to be understood that the above-described arrangements are only illustrative of the application of the principles of the present invention. In particular, aspects of the clip-art picture editor are generally advantageous. Thus, for example, the invention in respect to group editing of clip-art pictures encompasses also group editing of pictures that are not components of a gallery (i.e. are not clip-art pictures as that terminology has been used in the application). Other capabilities of the clip-art picture editor, such as inverting a picture (to obtain the photographic negative of the picture), mirroring a picture, or adding a pre-drawn component to an existing picture, are also generally advantageous, and the invention is intended to comprehend those aspects independent of whether the picture editor is being used to edit clip-art pictures. Numerous further modifications and alternative arrangements besides those indicated above may be devised by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention, and the appended claims are intended to cover such modifications and arrangements.